

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	INDIANA
COUNTY:	PARKE
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME	
COMMON:	
Lusk Home and Mill Site	
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Turkey Run State Park			
CITY OR TOWN:		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:	
Marshall		7th	
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Indiana	18	Parke	121

3. CLASSIFICATION			
CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ _____			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY			
OWNER'S NAME:			
State of Indiana - Department of Natural Resources Division of State Parks			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Room 616 State Office Building			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE
Indianapolis		Indiana	18

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:			
County Recorder			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Parke County Courthouse			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE	CODE
Rockville		Indiana 47872	18

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS			
TITLE OF SURVEY:			
Indiana Historic Preservation Program and Survey			
DATE OF SURVEY: 1972 <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
Department of Natural Resources			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
616 State Office Building			
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE
Indianapolis		Indiana	18

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lusk Home and Mill site incorporates the Lusk house, the site of the Lusk mill, a covered bridge, and the sites of other buildings that were close to the mill.

The Lusk home, built in 1841 by Salmon Lusk Sr. with the help of his sons is a two story brick structure on the second plateau above Sugar Creek facing South over the "narrows." This Federal style home with some Greek Revival detailing is built of bricks burned on the site and laid in common bond on a foundation of native Mansfield sandstone quarried near the site. The low gable roof is covered with sawn wood shingles and has a plain cornice with short returns. Two chimneys are located on the ridge at the interior of the gable ends. A third smaller chimney probably a later addition, is located at the edge of the roof at the rear of the main section of the house. A small gable-roofed cupola is located on the center of the ridge.

The front of the house is symmetrical, having two evenly spaced windows on each side of doors centered on each floor of the house. The first floor entry has side and transom lights surrounding the door. The double-hung windows have flat, radiating brick lintels, plain stone sills and louvered shutters. A two-story open porch, probably a later addition, has two story classic pillars and a railing on the second floor. There are two stone steps that lead up to the front door.

The house was built as a "L" with the short leg of the "L" forming a one-story shed-roofed extension on the rear. This has, like the rest of the house, no windows in the gable end. Although later additions of a gable roofed section with the gable running perpendicular to the main roof and a shed roofed porch now cover the unclosed corner of the "L" it appears to have had two windows and a door at the rear. The cornices and returns on this section are the same as the main stem of the "L". A gable roofed dormer was added just below the eve of the two story section on the roof of the one story section at a later date. A gable-roofed entryway has also been added to the west gable end at ground level.

The interior of the house is in excellent condition. It, like the rest of the house was made by Lusk and his sons. Native black walnut was used for the doors and woodwork and oak and poplar for the floors. All the woodwork is hand carved and fastened with wooden pegs. The first floor of the house has two rooms and a entry hall in the main section and three rooms in the rear section. A black walnut stairway leads from the first floor hall to the two rooms on the second floor. The Lusk house has been altered primarily by exterior additions since it was built and little of the original character of the house has been lost. It is in good structural condition but needs some work on the wood in the cornices and some other parts of the house.

The covered bridge at the Lusk Home and Mill site is the third bridge built over the "narrows" of Sugar Creek. The first was a log that Salmon Lusk placed across the creek to give access to a cow pasture. The second, a two lane wooden bridge that may or may not have been covered, was washed out in either 1847 or 1875. There are still marks in the rocks where the footings for this bridge were. The bridge that now stands on the site is a one-lane burr truss covered bridge built by J.A. Britton in 1882. Approximately 121 feet long this bridge has a sawn shingle roof, verticle wooden siding, vents under the eaves, and a lone window at the center of the span. In 1969 the State of Indiana contracted for extensive repairs on the bridge and at this

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DESCRIPTION CONTINUED

time the roof, arches, and foundations were strengthened. It has been used as a foot bridge since a new concrete bridge was constructed just downstream from it between 1958 and 1960 to carry traffic.

The 2 1/2 story frame mill that once stood on the site was built by Salmon Lusk in 1826, had three run of burrs and a saw. The most visible remains of the mill are the holes carved in the rock for the footings and a unique race, eight and one-half feet deep, eight feet wide and fifty feet long carved into the sandstone. A lack of cracks in the cut indicate that it was drilled and broken out rather than blasted. This race fed a vertical undershot wheel.

Shortly after the mill was built at the narrows a pork packing house and a grannery were built to complement the mill. Lusk constructed flat boats to ship these products to market in a shop on the site. In 1830 a store was built nearby by Prior Wright and by 1846 a tavern had been built just north of the mill. The tavern, probably destroyed some time around the turn of the century was a small gable-roofed frame structure with the chimney centered on the ridge. It had no windows in the gable ends and the front had had four voids, the center two being doors and the outer two, windows. The New Year's Freshet of 1847 washed out the mill, store, packinghouse and all that remains of these structures today are the holes carved in the sandstone to support the footings.

8. SIGNIFICANCE			
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)			
AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> itarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE			
<p>The Lusk Home and Mill site illustrates and represents the kinds of construction, architecture, commerce, and industry that once were prevalent in Indiana. Even the choice of the site with its available water supply and seasonal transportation illustrates a different set of property values than exist now. Lusk choose well according to the technological and economic dictates of his time.</p> <p>The house, a fine and little altered example of the Federal style of architecture, was executed by the owner using materials obtained near the site of construction. This house is the third house that Salmon Lusk built for his family at this site. The fine construction using local materials is especially significant as it was done by Lusk and his sons. The hand carved and fitted woodwork from the native timber is found throughout the house. The bricks that the Lusks burned on the site are hard and show few signs of weathering after 140 years. One would have to look hard to find a better example of the house a financially successful businessman in pioneer Indiana built.</p> <p>The key figure in the construction and development of this site is Salmon Lusk Sr.. Born in Rutland County, Vermont on April 17, 1788 he came to Indiana to serve under General William Henry Harrison in the War of 1812. After the war he decided to stay in Indiana and moved to Vermillion County. Later he married the daughter of mill owner John Beard and in 1826 he moved one county east and built the mill. Although nothing remains of the Lusk Mill but the mill race and a few notches in the rock where the the footings stood it was the center of a very properous business venture in west-central Indiana. The mill race is something of an engineering and construction accomplishment. Is is eight and one-half feet deep, fifty feet long, and eight feet wide. The lack of the tell-tale cracks made by blasting indicate that it was cut and not blasted into the solid sandstone. Centered around the mill came the pork-packing house, a grannery, a store and tavern as well as a shop to build the flatboats to send the produce of Parke county to New Orleans. He sent as many as twenty flatboats a year filled with the production of the land and his mill down the river system.</p> <p>In 1830 Prior Wright opened a store to serve the community and apparently did a good business. The tavern which became known as a place where many flatboats loaded with produce were won and lost at gaming was no doubt a welcome addition to the business of the area. The milling, packing and trading as the Lusk site were stopped when the New Year's freshet of 1847 swept away all the buildings but the house and the tavern.</p>			

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Even with all the activity in the area Salmon Lusk left the majority of the forest near his home in the virgin state. When he died his son, John Lusk inherited the property and it was through his determination not to destroy what his father had saved that Indiana has one of the few large areas of virgin timber in the midwest. John Lusk, a recluse, continued to live in the big brick house hardly changing a thing and resisting the many tempting offers of lumber companies to buy the property or the wood on it. He always let people roam freely and enjoy the woods and in 1881 he began leasing part of the property for a resort. After he died in 1915 there was quite a scramble for the property but the state finally obtained title to it and kept it as a state park.

The covered bridge that is now over the "narrows" at the Lusk Home and Mill site is not associate with the Lusk family directly but is on or near the site of two bridges that Salmon Lusk Sr. built. This bridge, built in 1882, was the first built by J.A. Briton who later went on to become one of the two best known bridge builders in western Indiana.

This Lusk Home and Mill Site illustrates the techincques and skills of one family in establishing a commercial operation geared to the needs of pioneer Indiana in early 19th century.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Sanderson, Z.C. Salmon Lusk, resource material on the history of Turkey Run State Park, c. 1943; Dept. of Natural Resources, Div. of State Parks, 616 State Office Bldg., Indianapolis, Ind. 46204.

Turkey Run State Park - A History and Description, The Dept. of Conservation, State of Indiana, introduction by E.Y. Guernsey; 1930, 43pp. Dept of Natural Resources, Div. of State Parks, 616 State Office Building, Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204

H.W. Beckwith, History of Vigo and Parke Counties, Chicago, 1880.

Charles G. Sauers, Turkey Run State Park, Indianapolis, 1925.

Outdoor Indiana May, 1974.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	°	'	"		39	°	53' 29.5"	
NE	°	'	"		87	°	11' 09"	
SE	°	'	"					
SW	°	'	"					

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: *h.a*

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Joseph D. Cloud, Director

ORGANIZATION

Department of Natural Resources

DATE

July 8, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:

608 State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN:

Indianapolis

STATE

Indiana 46204

CODE

18

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☐

Name _____

Title _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

SEE INSTRUCTIONS